

Message Text

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ACTION L-03

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ARA-16 EA-11 EUR-25 NEA-14 RSC-01 IO-14

ISO-00 ACDA-19 MC-02 SCA-01 SCS-03 OIC-04 DPW-01

OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 NSAE-00

NSC-07 PA-04 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 SR-02 ORM-03

DRC-01 /203 W

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R 310840Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3770

INFO AMEMBASSY SAIGON

USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L CANBERRA 4952

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, AS, PRG

SUBJECT: AUSTRALIA DECIDES TO SUPPORT INVITATION TO PRC TO ATTEND
ICRC CONFERENCE OF WEAPONS EXPERTS AS OBSERVER WITH
RIGHT TO SPEAK

REF: CANBERRA 3885, 4430 AND 4953 (NOTAL); STATE 165364

1. ON JULY 30 DFA OFFICER (LANCE JOSEPH, ACTING ASSISTANT
SECRETARY, MAINLAND SEA BRANCH) SHOWED EMBOFF TEXT OF NOTE
APPROVED BY FONMIN WILLESEE FOR EARLY DELIVERY TO ICRC. NOTE
STATES THAT GOA SEES VALUE IN INVITING PRG REPRESENTATIVE TO
PARTICIPATE IN MEETING OF WEAPONS EXPERTS IN LUCERNE SEPTEMBER
24 AS OBSERVER WITH RIGHT TO SPEAK. HOWEVER, NOTE CONTINUES,
GOA WOULD NOT APPROVE AN INVITATION ADDRESSED TO PRG TO PARTICIPATE
AS REPRESENTATIVE OF GOVERNMENT OF A STATE. JOSEPH SAID
DFA HOPED THAT ICRC WOULD READ NOTE AS CONSTITUTING ABSTENTION
ON ISSUE OF INVITATION TO PRG.

2. COMMENT: AUSTRALIANS ARE TRYING TO BE TOO CLEVER BY HALF, AND
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ATTEMPTED DISTINCTION BETWEEN "SEEING VALUE" IN INVITATION TO

PRG TO PARTICIPATE AS OBSERVER WITH RIGHT TO SPEAK WHILE
DISAPPROVING OF INVITATION TO PRG TO PARTICIPATE AS REPRESENTATIVE
OF GOVERNMENT OF A STATE IS LIKELY TO BE LOST ON ICRC.

3. JOSEPH ADMITTED TO CONSIDERABLE DISCOMFORT WITHIN
GOA ON ISSUE AND SAID THERE HAD BEEN SIGNIFICANT DEBATE AT
"HIGH CABINET LEVEL". WHEN EMBOFF NOTED THAT DEPUTY PRIME
MINISTER CAIRNS IS ON PUBLIC RECORD AS FAVORING RECOGNITION
OF PRG, JOSEPH MADE CLEAR, WITHOUT SO STATING IN
SPECIFIC LANGUAGE, THAT CAIRNS HAD SUCCESSFULLY PRESSED FOR
GESTURE TO PRG.

4. JOSEPH SOUGHT TO PLAY DOWN PRACTICAL EFFECT OF GOA DECISION,
COMMENTING THAT PRESENT INDICATIONS SUGGEST MOST COUNTRIES
VOTING WILL OPPOSE INVITATION TO PRG AND AUSTRALIAN DECISION
WOULD THUS HAVE LITTLE IMPACT ON PRG PARTICIPATION.

5. GOA NOTE IS EROSION OF FONMIN WILLESEE'S POSITION (CANBERRA
4430) WHEN AMBASSADOR LAST DISCUSSED THIS SUBJECT WITH HIM 12
JULY, AND SEEMS TO BE RESULT OF EFFORTS BY DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER
CAIRNS. AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY WASHINGTON IS INSTRUCTED
TO INFORM DEPARTMENT OF THIS DECISION AND OF DECISION REGARDING
CAMBODIAN UN REPRESENTATION (SEPTTEL). ASSUME DEPARTMENT WILL
EVIDENCE SAME DISPLEASURE WE ARE SHOWING AT THIS DEVELOPMENT.
HARROP

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: RECOGNITION, ARMS CONTROL MEETINGS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, DIPLOMATIC NOTES, MEETING OBSERVERS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 31 JUL 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: boyleja
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974CANBER04952
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740207-1216
From: CANBERRA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t1974074/aaaaacrd.tel
Line Count: 86
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION L
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: CANBERRA 3885, 4430 AND 4953 (NOTAL), ; STATE 165364
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: boyleja
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 18 JUN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <18 JUN 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <25 FEB 2003 by boyleja>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: AUSTRALIA DECIDES TO SUPPORT INVITATION TO PRC TO ATTEND ICRC CONFERENCE OF WEAPONS EXPERTS AS OBSERVER WITH
TAGS: PFOR, AS, ICRC, PRG
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005